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## Daily Environment Report

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### NEWS

#### *Air Pollution*

##### **More Groups Lobbying on Ozone Following EPA Proposal to Revise 2008 Standards**

Lobbying on national ozone standards increased by 184 percent from a year ago, following the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to revise the standards, with 88 groups and companies reporting lobbying on the issue during the...

#### *Asbestos*

##### **Claims Narrowed in Asbestos Case Against Shell Oil, United Technologies**

Fraudulent concealment claims against Shell Oil and United Technologies were dismissed in a former aviation mechanic's suit over asbestos exposure, while negligence and strict liability claims survive against those companies and...

#### *Asbestos*

##### **Consumer Attorneys Dispute Industry Claims In California Take-Home Asbestos Appeals**

Extending employer liability for take-home asbestos exposures won't create the "flood" of litigation predicted by the defendants and their industry supporters, according to briefs filed April 28 by a consumer attorney group...

#### *Budget*

##### **House Expected to Vote on \$35 Billion Energy, Water Spending Bill on May 1**

The House is expected to vote on final passage of a \$35.4 billion fiscal year 2016 energy and water appropriations bill May 1, after holding a series of late night votes on amendments, Jennifer Hing, a spokeswoman for the House Appropriations...

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#### *Chemicals*

##### **Shell Shuts Down Most Claims Over Puerto Rico MTBE Contamination**

Puerto Rico can't pursue groundwater contamination claims for trace amounts of methyl tertiary-butyl ether in gasoline produced and distributed by Shell Oil Co. but may proceed on its allegation that an affiliate made shipments with...

#### *Climate Change*

##### **California Leading Effort to Push Global Activity on Climate Change: Brown Adviser**

California is leading an effort by subnational governments to advance global action on climate change, Ken Alex, a senior policy adviser to Gov. Jerry Brown (D), told a climate change conference....

#### *Climate Change*

##### **Carbon Tax Could Be Swapped for Cuts In Other Taxes, Deficit Reduction, WRI Says**

Putting a tax on carbon pollution remains the most efficient approach for reducing greenhouse gases, but it also could generate revenue Congress could use to cut federal deficits and federal income taxes, the World Resources Institute said...

#### *Climate Change*

##### **Japan Unveils Goal to Cut 2030 Greenhouse Gas Emissions 26% From 2013 Levels**

A Japanese government policy commission April 30 announced a national goal of a 26 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 2013 levels....

#### *Climate Change*

##### **U.S., Japan Fail to Pay Green Climate Fund, Slowing Pace of Climate Mitigation Projects**

Despite a dramatic increase during the past few weeks in money secured by the United Nation's Green Climate Fund, its failure to reach the goal for funds on hand by April 30 will delay—perhaps by as much as a year—how soon the...

#### *Climate Regulation*

##### **EPA Moves to Rescind Some Greenhouse Gas Permits Following Supreme Court Decision**

The Environmental Protection Agency in a direct final rule detailed steps that states may take to rescind some greenhouse gas permits in accordance with a U.S. Supreme Court decision limiting the scope of the permitting program....

#### *Climate Regulation*

##### **McConnell Tactic Unlikely to Block Interstate Trading Programs Under Clean Power Plan**

An obscure provision of the Clean Air Act cited by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is unlikely to deter states from joining emissions trading programs to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean...

#### *Climate Regulation*

##### **Oklahoma Governor Signs Order**

## **Ruling Out Plan for EPA Carbon Rules**

Signaling the second time in a week the state has sought to rebuff federal authority in environmental affairs, Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin (R) signed an executive order declaring that Oklahoma won't file a state implementation plan with...

### *Corporate Responsibility*

## **Reporting Trends Can Move Companies**

### **Toward Transparency, Greater Responsibility**

There is increasing pressure from consumers, investors and governments for companies to be more accountable and transparent, according to panelists at the American Bar Association's International Law Section spring meeting....

### *Emissions Trading*

## **European Union Carbon Advances as Latvia**

### **Pushes for Reform Deal in Coming Weeks**

The European Union presidency is seeking agreement in early May on the final shape of the bloc's carbon- market reform after governments endorsed faster and tougher steps to curb a glut of emission permits....

### *Endangered Species*

## **House Committee Approves Defense Bill 60-2**

### **With Section Delaying Sage Grouse Decision**

The House Armed Services Committee passed the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 1735) for fiscal year 2016 with a section prohibiting until 2025 an Endangered Species Act listing decision on the greater sage grouse....

### *Energy*

## **DOE to Post More Quadrennial Review Data;**

### **Report Urges \$15 Billion for Infrastructure**

More appendices and supporting documents with data collected as part of the White House Quadrennial Energy Report (QER) will be released, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said April 30....

### *Energy Efficiency*

## **House Energy Efficiency Bill Draws**

### **Opposition From Committee Democrats**

Energy efficiency legislation unveiled by the House Energy and Commerce Committee drew opposition from Democrats on the panel, who called into question the majority's quest to keep the bill bipartisan. ...

### *Energy Efficiency*

## **Obama Signs Energy-Efficiency Measure,**

### **First Energy Bill Enacted This Congress**

President Barack Obama signed into law the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015 (S. 535), which directs federal efforts to increase energy and water efficiency in commercial buildings....

### *Energy*

## **FERC's Moeller: Supreme Court Could Rule**

### **On Demand Response Program by May 4**

FERC Commissioner Philip Moeller said April 30 that he expects

that the U.S. Supreme Court may issue a decision as soon as May 4 on the Obama administration's petition to uphold the agency's authority to regulate demand response in...

#### *Energy*

##### **Nuclear Regulatory Commission Vote Expected on Proposal to Streamline Agency**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission plan to vote late next week on staff recommendations on how to streamline and downsize the agency, NRC Chairman Stephen Burns said....

#### *Energy*

##### **Smartphone Maker Foxconn in U.K. Talks To Raise \$1.7 Billion for Clean Energy**

Foxconn Technology Group is in talks with U.K. investors to raise about \$1.7 billion for green initiatives as the maker of iPhones boosts work on projects designed to save energy....

#### *Enforcement*

##### **City in Massachusetts Agrees to Implement Measures to Resolve Water Act Violations**

The city of Lawrence, Mass., will begin implementing measures to reduce or eliminate overflows from its sewer system and to address violations of its stormwater permit under a proposed Clean Water Act settlement with the Environmental Protection...

#### *EPA*

##### **United House Panel Slams EPA Response To Sexual Harassment, Pornography Episodes**

Senior management at the Environmental Protection Agency failed to take sufficient and rapid enough action in responding to sexual harassment and pornography allegations at the agency, a united House Oversight and Government Reform Committee...

#### *Hazmat Transport*

##### **Bill Would Prompt Tank Car Upgrades For Flammable Liquid Transport by Rail**

Seven senators introduced a bill April 30 that would provide companies with incentives to quickly upgrade rail tank cars used to transport flammable liquids, such as crude oil and ethanol....

#### *Hazmat Transport*

##### **Most Major Oil, Ethanol Train Derailments Occurred Below FRA-Issued Speed Limit**

Most major domestic crude oil and ethanol train derailments since 2006 have occurred at speeds lower than the Federal Railroad Administration's recently issued speed limits—limits some believe are indicative of what will appear...

#### *Hazmat Transport*

##### **U.S., Canada to Announce Oil Tank Car Standards**

The U.S. and Canada will announce May 1 the new tank car standards for moving flammable liquids via rail, the Transportation Department said. U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and Canada Minister of Transport Lisa Raitt will hold...

#### *Hydraulic Fracturing*

##### **Critics of Fracking Rule for Federal Lands Predict Delays, Higher Costs, Lost Activity**

The new federal rule to update regulations on oil and gas operations using hydraulic fracturing will impose delays and higher costs that will drive more work away from federal lands, witnesses and Republican senators suggested during an April...

#### *Hydraulic Fracturing*

##### **Gas Companies to Ask Court for Re-Argument of Fracking Lease Case**

Inflection Energy LLC will ask New York's highest court May 18 to allow it to re-argue a case that allowed leases between it and other oil and gas companies and certain New York landowners to expire....

#### *Hydraulic Fracturing*

##### **Gas Emissions From Fracking Operations Drift Hundreds of Miles, Study Suggests**

Natural gas emissions from hydraulic fracturing operations are the likely explanation for increased detection of ethane gas in air monitoring stations hundreds of miles downwind of the operations, according to a new study published in the...

#### *Motor Vehicles*

##### **After Generous Subsidies Next Year, China To Slash Incentives to Buy Cleanest Cars**

China said government subsidies to encourage the purchase of the most fuel-efficient motor vehicles will be scaled back beginning in 2017....

#### *Oil & Gas*

##### **Trick to Dodging Keystone XL Woes In Pipeline Projects: Pledge No Oil**

Canada's energy industry may have figured out how to build a pipeline without the uproar that stalled Keystone XL: promise it will never carry oil....

#### *Oil & Gas*

##### **Vote on Murkowski Measure to Repeal Ban on Oil Exports Unlikely, Corker Says**

A measure to repeal the 40-year-old ban on oil exports filed by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) is "unlikely" to receive a vote, Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) told Bloomberg BNA April 30. ...

#### *Pesticides*

##### **EPA Pushes Back Against IG Criticism Of Pesticide Inspections in North Dakota**

A back-and-forth correspondence made public April 30 between the Environmental Protection Agency and its own inspector general revealed an intra-agency spat over the purpose and value of pesticide inspections....

#### *Radioactive Waste*

##### **DOE, New Mexico Government Settle For \$73 Million in 2014 Radiation-Leak Case**

A \$73.25 million settlement of claims arising from incidents at the

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico and associated activities at Los Alamos National Laboratory was announced April 30 by Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Gov. Susana...

#### *Radioactive Waste*

#### **New Mexico Counties Offer Location for Proposed Interim High-Level Waste Storage**

Southeastern New Mexico has become the latest location to offer itself as a site for the interim storage of nuclear waste....

#### *Storage Tanks*

#### **White House Completes Review of EPA's Final Underground Storage Tank Revisions**

The White House Office of Management and Budget completed its review of a final Environmental Protection Agency rule revising underground storage tank requirements under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act on April 29. ...

#### *Water Pollution*

#### **Senate Bill Directs EPA, Corps to Claim Water Jurisdiction Based on Measurable Flow**

Bipartisan legislation introduced April 30 by Sens. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.) would bar any revision made to the regulatory definition of the waters of the U.S. unless it follows explicit guidelines outlined in the...

## **REGULATORY AGENDA**

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### **APRIL 30 FEDERAL REGISTER**

#### **Comment Deadlines**

### **MAY 1 FEDERAL REGISTER**

Daily Environment Report

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